

Message Text

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14

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAJ-01 SCCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 PM-04 NSC-05 SS-15

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R 130830Z JAN 76

FM AMCONSUL BORDEAUX

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 465

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL LYON

AMCONSUL MARSEILLE

AMCONSUL NICE

AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: INT, FR

SUBJ: BOMBING INCIDENTS IN SARLAT

1. ON JANUARY 1-2, 1976, THERE WAS A SERIES OF FOUR BOMB EXPLOSIONS IN SARLAT IN THE DORDOGNE. NO VICTIMS WERE REPORTED. TARGETS WERE ALL REAL ESTATE AGENCIES WHICH, ALLEDGEDLY, SPECIALIZE IN THE SALE OF LOCAL PROPERTY TO FOREIGNERS (ESPECIALLY BRITISH AND DUTCH) AND FRENCHMEN NOT NATIVE TO THE AREA.

2. ACCORDING TO LOCAL SPECULATION, THESE BOMBINGS ARE CONNECTED WITH AN "OCCITAN" NATIONALIST MOVEMENT. REPORTEDLY, THERE WERE SLOGANS PAINTED ON REAL ESTATE AGENCY BUILDINGS BEFORE THE BOMBINGS SUCH AS "OCCITANIA IS NOT UP FOR SALE" AND "OCCITANIA WILL CONQUER". LOCAL REAL ESTATE AGENTS STATE THEY ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PROPERTY SITUATION AND THAT WHEN LOCAL FARMERS WANT TO SELL THEIR LAND THE AGENT'S ROLE IS TO FIND A BUYER AND IT IS NOT THEIR FAULT IF THE BUYER IS PARISIAN, DUTCH OR ENGLISH. ALSO, THEY

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CLAIM THAT IT IS UP TO THE GOVERNMENT TO CHANGE THE LAW

IF THERE IS A PROBLEM CONCERNING THE SALE OF PROPERTY
TO FOREIGNERS.

3. COMMENT. THE CHIEF OF POLICE IN SARLAT INFORMED ME
THAT THE INVESTIGATION OF THESE INCIDENTS HAS LED NOWHERE,
TO DATE, AND THAT THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES ARE STILL "IN
A FOG." THEY ARE NOT SURE THAT THESE INCIDENTS ARE
CONNECTED WITH ANY OCCITANIAN NATIONALIST OR CULTURAL
MOVEMENT. IF SO, IT WOULD BE THE FIRST SUCH OCCITANIAN
TERRORIST INCIDENT IN THE SARLAT AREA. TRADITIONALLY,
THE OCCITANIAN NATIONALISTS HAVE CENTERED THEIR ACTIVITIES
IN THE LANGUEDOC REGION IN THE SOUTH OF FRANCE AND NOT
IN THE DORDOGNE AREA. ACCORDINGLY, THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES
SUSPECT THAT THESE BOMBING INCIDENTS MAY BE A STRICTLY
LOCAL PHENOMENON WITHOUT TIES TO ANY NATIONALIST OR
CULTURAL MOVEMENT. HOWEVER, NO DEFINITE CONCLUSIONS HAVE
YET BEEN DRAWN. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT ONE SEES
OCCITANIAN NATIONALIST SLOGANS THROUGHOUT THE SOUTHWEST
OF FRANCE, DESPITE THE FACT THAT LANGUEDOC, STRICTLY
SPEAKING, IS GEOGRAPHICALLY FURTHER TO THE EAST.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BOMBING, POLICE INVESTIGATIONS, TERRORISTS, BUSINESS FIRMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BORDEA00002
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760012-0049
From: BORDEAUX
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760164/aaaaceip.tel
Line Count: 82
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 APR 2004 by SmithRJ>; APPROVED <20 APR 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BOMBING INCIDENTS IN SARLAT
TAGS: PINT, FR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006